Price of Cement.

22. *Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Will the Government be pleased to state the market price of cement during the years 1116, 1117 and 1118 M. E.?

Mr. I. C. Chacko Market price in 1116—Not available.
do. 1117—Rs. 40 and 44 per ton.
do. 1118—Rs. 48 per ton.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know whether the market price is more than 12 rupees per hundred weight of cement?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: No, Sir. No standard price has been fixed by Government.

Vanchiyoor Section of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Scheme.

23. *Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the town improvement scheme for the Vanchiyoor Section of the Trivandrum City has been fully drawn up;

(*b*) whether there is an evil smelling open gutter lying on the western side of the new High Court buildings at Vanchiyoor;

(*c*) whether the said gutter is kept in a very insanitary condition; and

(*d*) whether any steps have been taken to improve the present unsatisfactory condition of the gutter?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: (*a*) No.

(*b*) There is an open gutter but it is not evil smelling.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c).

Mr. James Fletcher: With reference to the answer to part (b), is the member aware that during the hot season, there are patches of stagnation water in the gutter bringing forth an evil smell?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Not in front of the High Court buildings where there is a masonry drain already built.

Cost of public works.

24. *Mr. James Fletcher: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Public Works Department has a schedule of rates for guidance in the preparation of estimates for construction of buildings;

(*b*) if, so, whether the schedule of rates is workable now;

(*c*) if the schedule of rates is not now workable, what is the percentage of rise in the schedule of rates;

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[Mr. James Fletcher.]

(*d*) the date from which the rise in the rates began ; and

(*e*) whether Government have made any provision for works which have been completed after the rise in rates had started, but were begun before the same ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) About 25 to 50 per cent over the schedule rates.

(*d*) From the commencement of war.

(*e*) Yes.

President: Order, order. I have requested the Secretary to place on the table of the House, so as to be available to the members of this Honourable House, an uncorrected copy of an address which it was my privilege to deliver elsewhere. I do not propose to repeat myself. But there are one or two salient features which would bear repetition and which would always be borne in mind when we are passing through the present crisis in food grains. And I shall devote a few minutes to a discussion of that topic. But before I do so, there are two points on which I should like to have the opinion and the directions of this House. I have received notice of two motions, one of felicitations on the Tunisian Victory, the other of offering the congratulations of this honourable House to His Highness the Elaya Rajah on the success—conspicuous success—achieved by him in the recent B. A. Degree Examination. Is it the pleasure of this House that these motions should be debated and voted upon or whether it would be sufficient in the opinion of this honourable House that I should say a few words and then put the propositions from the Chair ? I shall follow the directions of the House.

Mr. James Fletcher: The motions may be moved from the Chair.

REJOICINGS ON THE TUNISIAN VICTORY.

President: In the first place, notices of motion have been given by Mr. V. Sankara Menon and Mr. James Fletcher.

> "This Council wishes to express its rejoicings on the successful termination of the African Campaign by the Allies' victory in Tunisia and the glorious and praise-worthy part played by the Indian Army in the struggle."

I have elsewhere referred to this matter and taken the occasion to point out that in the opinion of many persons including myself, we celebrate this victory as the first instalment of what we hope will be a series of equally resounding victories—victories designed not so much by way of territorial or economic aggrandisement but

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